

League backs electronic license filing; cites snags in "instant license" plan

The ARRL has filed comments opposing an FCC proposal to grant immediate on-the-air privileges to amateur examiners before a license is issued by the Commission, preferring the early implementation of electronic filing as a better way to address the problem of excessive delays.

The League said it stood by its comments already made, on a petition for rule making that resulted in the FCC's proposal, in PR Docket 93-267. The ARRL told the FCC that its Notice of Proposed Rule Making, issued November 4, did not seem to consider the League's comments made last summer.

At that time, the ARRL said in response to a petition by the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society-VEC that such a system was both unlawful and would be detrimental to

enforcement. The League said that the FCC had, as recently as 1987, denied such a concept and that the absence of an up-to-date database of such temporary call signs would make both self-regulation by amateurs themselves and rules enforcement by the Commission more difficult.

The League now has added that suggestions in the NPRM that precedents for such a plan exist in other services are incorrect; has reiterated its opinion that such a plan is inconsistent with the international radio regulations; and has emphasized that electronic filing of applications with the FCC would accomplish the same goal, that of reducing the wait to get on the air, while maintaining total FCC oversight of licensing.

The reply comment date for this proposal is February 10, 1994.

2 The ARRL Letter January 10, 1994

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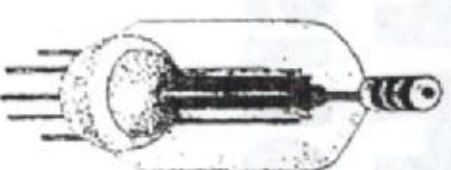
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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE

MARCH
1994

QUA^{W3GV} RAE

The Radio Association of Erie is a non-profit club serving the tri-state area by providing emergency communication during a civil disaster, as well as providing communication support for public service events. The club meets 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month at the Red Cross Chapter House, 4961 Pittsburgh Avenue, Erie, PA. Membership is open to any person interested in amateur radio. For membership information, contact Bob Schwimmer, N3FAW at 866-3027. Area nets: Tri-State RACES Emergency Net is conducted weekly on 146.61 MHz Sundays at 6:30 PM; ARES/SKYWARN Net on 146.61 MHz Sundays at 9:30 PM; RAE Novice/Technician Net on 28.340 MHz Wednesday at 8:30 PM; 6 Meter AM Net Wednesday at 9:00 PM on 50.52 MHz; 10 Meter RTTY Net on Friday at 8:30 PM on 28.280 MHz.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF R.A.E.

7:30 PM on MARCH 3, 1994

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ERIE COUNTY A.R.E.S. UPDATE

We are fast approaching the time of year when we will be called upon by the National Weather Service to help monitor severe weather as it passes through Erie County. The time is now to check your radios and equipment so when the need arises you will be prepared. I strongly advise all A.R.E.S. members and other interested ham radio operators to attend the Skywarn training session on April 9, 1994 from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. at the St. Vincent School of Nursing auditorium. More information can be obtained by checking in or listening to the A.R.E.S./Skywarn training and information net on Sunday evenings at 9:30 p.m. local time on the 146.01/61 repeater linked to the 146.22/82 repeater. Below is a list of the current members of Erie County A.R.E.S. If your name is not listed you have not filled out and returned an updated A.R.E.S. form to me. Forms are available at the R.A.E. club meetings or send a self addressed stamped envelope and I will see that you receive a form. Thanks to all for your support for Erie County A.R.E.S.

Tom McClain, N3HPR, E.C. Erie County

K3TJM	JACK JOHNSTON	N3LPP	KATHLEEN MOBILIA
K3UFG	DAN MILLER	N3MEC	JAKE CRAFT
K3VLQ	L.J. HEMMIS	N3MHO	GREG FISHER
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KA3ZXC	JOHN FISHER	N3NRX	KEVIN LIS
KB2OJA	THOMAS WAGNER	N3OZH	FRANK CUTSHAW
KB3AAW	RICH HUMES	N3QHT	JUDY WELLMAN
KB3AKR	LIZ SALTER	N3QWA	CRAIG MYERS
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Minutes of R. A. E. General Meeting - Feb. 3, 1994

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the President Dan Miller, K3UFG. Officers and board members present were K3UFG, W3GZO, N3MRB, KA3WYO, N3HPR, N3FAW, WB3DOM, N3HUM and KA3QDM.

K3UFG asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of our latest silent key Howard "Jud" Andrews KB3NK.

The special speaker for the night is Chris Campbell who set-up, coordinates and oversees the Emergency 911 System.

We had one upgrade this month KB3BAM Jeremy Lobough.

The President asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the January meeting, as printed in the QUE-RAE. The minutes need to be corrected to read KA3FZO not K3FZO. The motion to accept was made by W3EZY, and second by KB2QUA.

The treasurers report was given by N3MRB. WR4W made a motion to accept the report, seconded by N3LPO; motion carried.

N3HPR gave the Board Meeting report and informed the membership of the bequeath of Jud KB3NK's station.

KA3WUN report that most of the club equipment is out on loan.

Club membership is at 212 total members as reported by N3FAW.

KA3WUN is looking for an assistant to help with public service events, and volunteers for the events this year.

WB3KGT reported on the repeater snow mode. Also please do not discuss the exchange of commercial software over the air.

Novice Round-Up is going on this week as reported by WB3DOM.

WR4W announced that there will not be any spring Amateur Radio classes. Novice, Tech., and General classes will be offered in the fall.

The R.A.E. will be sponsoring a special events station that will be in operation from the Brig Niagara on Sat. May 21, information will published in QST. Operators are needed, please sign-up to help out. For more info call WR4W.

N3HPR report that plans for Hamfest 94 are underway and going well.

N3HPR has 76 ARES operators signed up at this time. He reminds all ARES operators of the importance of using the ITU phonetic alphabet.

WB3KGT reports that Skywarn training is scheduled for April 9 at the Saint Vincent Nurses Training Center.

COMING EVENTS: Dayton Hamfest plan to attend.

R A E Field Day

NEW BUSINESS: The question of a club station was raised. The board will discuss this at an upcoming board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ARRL is taking applications for 49 scholarships that they will be awarding.

WB3KGT made a motion to accept the changes to the BY-LAWS of the RAE section D(1) as stated in the two previous readings. The motion was seconded by W3EZY. A vote was taken of the members present; motion carried.

50-50 Drawing: 2 Conneaut Hamfest Tickets were awarded

N3HPR was the winner of the money

WB3KGT made a motion to adjourn the meeting, N3LPO seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis H. Sharer

Dennis Sharer, Secretary

N3EOY does Windows

The QUARAE asked Dave Henderson to offer a few tips for Windows users, so he searched around, mumbled a while and came up with the following collection

Give your icons a new look

If you use Program Manager, you've probably built up a healthy collection of program windows with icons. Windows 3.1 provides options that let you dramatically alter the look of your desktop.

You can specify a new font (typeface and size) for Windows to use with icons. Using 7-point Times New Roman (a TrueType font), for example, will let you pack more icons into a smaller space. Using a plain text editor like Notepad or DOS's Edit, open WIN.INI and add two lines to the [Desktop] section:
iconfontface=Times New Roman
iconfontsize=7

Note: If you specify a TrueType typeface, you can select any size from 4 to 127 points. If you pick one of Windows' bit-mapped fonts, you'll be limited to the selection of sizes included in the font (with MS Sans Serif, for example, you're limited to six sizes from 8 to 24 points).

Go directly to a Control Panel item

For quick access to the Control Panel, don't waste time hunting around for its program group.

From Program Manager, choose File, Run, and enter CONTROL DESKTOP in the command-line box to go straight to the Desktop section of the Control Panel. When you finish making changes, click on OK (or Cancel) to return to Program Manager.

Use this method for any of the Control Panel items by specifying the item's title in the command line.

For example, type CONTROL COLOR for a quick adjustment of your Windows color scheme, or CONTROL PRINTERS to set a new default printer. If you mistype the item's name, you'll go directly to the Control Panel's opening menu.

Use Alt+Tab switching between applications

Windows 3.1 offers an option with the name Fast Alt+Tab Switching found in the Control Panel Desktop. The label in WIN.INI is

much more descriptive than the name, though. Check this box, and Windows adds the line COOLSWITCH=1 to WIN.INI.

The effect is indeed cool. When you cycle through open applications using Alt-Tab, Windows displays a box in the center of the screen that identifies each active program with its icon.

Load Windows faster with fewer fonts installed

During startup, Windows takes inventory of every font listed in its INI files. If you have a huge collection of fonts installed, you can take a coffee break while waiting for Windows to load.

Since nobody uses 100 fonts in one Windows session, remove fonts you don't use often. In Windows' Control Panel under the Fonts icon, select the fonts you don't use, and click on the Remove button. If the Remove Fonts from Disk option isn't selected, you can reinstate them later by clicking on Add.

Many ways to switch between applications

One of Windows' major selling points is running multiple programs, so there are several ways to switch between applications.

The least efficient is minimizing the current window in order to switch to another.

Mouse aficionados should try to keep part of their desktop (the area where BMP wallpaper shows up) on display. Double-click on the desktop to display the Task List, then double-click on the application you want to switch to.

If you'd rather use the keyboard, press Ctrl-Esc to bring up the Task List. Use arrow keys to highlight the program you want, and press Enter to switch to it.

An even more convenient alternative is Alt-Tab, explained earlier. With one finger on the Alt key, press Tab repeatedly to cycle through a display of icons for all open programs. When you get to the one you want, release both keys, and up it will pop.

Check for the latest Windows drivers

Microsoft issues periodic updates of its Windows Driver Library — an ongoing col-

lection of Windows device drivers for printers, sound, video, cd-rom, etc. that didn't make it onto the standard set of Windows 3.1 installation disks.

The Windows Driver Library is available, at no charge, online from Microsoft (dial 206-936-6735 via modem and download the file WDL.TXT for a listing of updated drivers) and from CompuServe in the Microsoft Knowledge Index area.

Microsoft will also mail you the Windows Driver Library on disk; call Microsoft at (800) 426-9400 to obtain more information.

Your other option is to contact the hardware manufacturer directly for the device driver that you need.



Use the generic drivers to solve an immediate problem

If Setup is relying on advanced features that your particular hardware gizmo doesn't support, try using the generic Windows' driver for the device, such as the Microsoft VGA video driver.

This will at least get you up and running until you can get your hands on the proper driver from the manufacturer.

Backup Windows configuration

Guard against Windows mishaps by backing up your configuration files regularly.

Include all the INI, GRP and DLL files in your Windows directory in your regular backup routines. Or at the very least, use a file management program to make copies of them in a separate subdirectory.

If you ever need to restore Windows after a problem, reinstall Windows from the original program disks. Then copy all the INI, GRP, and DLL files from either your backup or the separate subdirectory into your Windows directory. Your original desktop settings will be intact.

If Windows greets you with a message saying it can't read a program group, exit Windows and copy the groups GRP file from your backups to the Windows directory. Then restart Windows and your group will be restored.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to the amateur world.

It is only March, and 1994 is already a record-setting year. Cold temperatures like never before continue to put Erie on the weather map, while the rest of the state gets plastered with ice storms that leave many areas immobile for days at a time. All we can do is hope and pray for calm and normal weather -- a pleasant spring and summer -- to make up for this dreadful winter!!

As the routine club activities of the year draw near, so does the latest addition -- a Special Event Station.

Thanks to the efforts of WFR4W Jim Salter, this year's special event station will be on board the US Brig Niagara and will take place on May 21. Frequencies at specific times have not yet been determined, but it is hoped that a maritime-mobile roundtable may be established between the Niagara, the Queen Mary, and the Naval Frigate stationed in Lake Erie. In addition to the HF station, 2 Meters will also be used. For more information about the special event station, attend the club meetings, listen to the repeaters and participate in the nets.

1994 SKYWARN Training is scheduled for April 9 at St. Vincent's Nursing School. With the tornado season so close, this information will prove to be invaluable as well as timely. This year's training will be a combination of material including videos, visual aids, and a workbook which can be kept and used later as a reference guide. Be sure to sign up!!

We would like to thank Chris Campbell for his super program explaining the 9-1-1 system at the February general meeting. His response to the question of when to use 9-1-1 was simple -- if there is need for an IMMEDIATE RESPONSE, there is need to call 9-1-1. It is then the responsibility of the 9-1-1 operator to connect the caller with the proper responding agency. Be sure to tell the operator if you are calling from a radio. Try to provide as much information as possible and stay on the line ... but remember: when using the repeater, 30 seconds of inactivity and the repeater will disconnect the phone patch.

Our next meeting will take place Thursday, March 3 at the American Red Cross Chapter House and will include 2 videos: one about Satellite Amateur Radio Experimentation, and the other a tour of ARRL HQ where you meet the people in charge of such departments as WAS Awards, DXCC Awards, and the entire operation. I'm sure everyone will find them very informative and enjoyable. As always, coffee and cookies at 7 PM, and the general meeting will start at 7:30 PM. See you there!!

Oh, yes. Don't forget the Hamfest Committee Meeting at 6 PM preceding the general meeting.

73
Dan Miller, K3UFG



Volunteer Examiner's Report

The FCC's new Form 610 ...

As of February, all old 610 forms are to be thrown away, and the FCC will only accept their new form, which carries an expiration date of August 31, 1996. As well as the ARRL VEC office supplying all VE Team Liaisons with the new form, which is still in limited supply, the FCC also mailed a supply to each.

Beginning with this new 610 form for testing, not only any current license copy must be provided, but a copy of any current CSCE is also a requirement. The former 610 forms contained accommodations for the CSCE information, and the new forms do not, which is why the CSCE copy must be submitted for processing of any exams passed. Also, please note that new CSCE forms will contain a space for each applicant to sign. As of now, any older CSCE forms used, must also be signed by the applicant.

At the Villa Maria Center test session in February, those who gained their first license are Constance Luschini of Fairview, James Zaebs of Ashtabula, and

a father and son team, Frank Messina and son Frank of Erie.

Upgrading their class of license were Michael Tousey WB3EWI of Fairview to Advanced, William Small N3NDS of Erie to General, Robert Jacobs N3OCL of Union City to General, Franklin Cutshaw N3NRX of Cory to Technician with HF, and Gene Robertson N3RKN of Oil City to Technician with HF.

The next Villa Maria Center test session will be held on Saturday, March 5, at 8 AM. Exams will be held in Room 110, A'Hearn Hall, 2551 W. 12th Street. A large sign marks both the 8th and 12th Street entrance to the center, and our free standing test sign marks the building entrance.

Reminder -- FCC exams will be given at the Conneaut, Ohio Hamfest at 10 AM on Sunday, March 13th. Hamfest is at the Conneaut Human Resource Center, 327 Mill Street. For further information of either test session, reach me at (814) 665-9124.

Norma Vanderhoff, W3CG
ARRL VE Liaison

SILENT KEY -- "Doc" Baxter W3YWL

R. Stanley Baxter, best known as "Doc" Baxter, of Lake City, became a silent key recently. Taking a tumble while bike riding, he broke his hip, and while recuperating in the hospital, he contracted pneumonia. Doc received his first radio license in 1953 and has been very active ever since. He was a member of the ARRL, the Radio Association of Erie, and a charter member of QCWA. He would have been 86 years old next month. Our condolences go out to his NYL Esther, his sons and his daughter, who is the wife of Ken Springirth.



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